

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *Using Lexile® measures to help children “Find a Book”*



### **What is a Lexile measure?**

A Lexile measure indicates the reading level of an individual or a book. By comparing a reader's Lexile measure with the Lexile measure of a book, you can decide whether its text demand will be too difficult, too easy or just right for a child's reading ability. To best strengthen reading skills, children should read books within their Lexile range.

### **What is a reader's recommended Lexile range?**

A reader's Lexile range spans from 100L below to 50L above their Lexile measure. When children read within their Lexile range, they should be able to comprehend enough of the book to make sense of it, while still being sufficiently challenged to maintain interest and learning.

### **How can you use Lexile measures to help children find books?**

With the free “Find a Book, South Dakota” search tool, you can help children select books that best match their reading ability (Lexile measure), interests and goals. It's easy and fun to use!

**1** Go to [www.ReadSD.com](http://www.ReadSD.com) and take the **20 MINUTES 24/7** Pledge.

**2** Click on the Find a Book Icon and enter a child's grade and reading level. Select categories of interest and create a list.

**3** Grab your books at your local library and get ready to *Grow a Mind*.



**Find a Book**  
South Dakota



### Should children try to read books outside of their Lexile range?

Children can read books that are above or below their Lexile range. However, books that are below a reader's Lexile range may offer little challenge in terms of new vocabulary and complex grammatical structure. Similarly, books that are above their Lexile range may be too challenging and discourage the reader.

*Higher Lexile measures allow an advanced and enthusiastic reader to:*

- be challenged with high-interest books above his or her Lexile level
- seek help with a difficult but interesting book
- find other books on the same subject but at a higher Lexile level

*Lower Lexile measures allow a struggling and reluctant reader to:*

- build skills with less challenging books on topics of choice
- select high-low books based on Lexile and development levels
- find other books on the same subject but at a lower level

### Do children need a Lexile measure to use "Find a Book, South Dakota"?

No. "Find a Book, South Dakota" can estimate a child's starting Lexile range based on their grade and comfort with the reading material at that grade. Then, based on the book search results, a child can further refine their Lexile range to select books that best support successful reading.

### Is a Lexile measure the only criteria to consider when picking a book?

A Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter or text quality, age-appropriateness of the content or a reader's interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that students can use to select books.

Some books also have a Lexile code—a two-letter designation that appears before the Lexile measure (for example, AD580L)—to provide more information about the book's developmental appropriateness, reading difficulty, and common or intended usage. Visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com) for more information on Lexile codes.

The Lexile Framework for Reading evaluates reading ability and text complexity on the same developmental scale. Unlike other measurement systems, the Lexile Framework determines reading ability based on actual assessments, rather than generalized age or grade levels. Recognized as the standard for matching readers with texts, tens of millions of students worldwide receive a Lexile measure that helps them find targeted readings from more than 100 million articles, books and websites that have been measured. Lexile measures connect learners of all ages with resources at the right level of challenge and monitor their progress toward state and national proficiency standards.

View other online resources with Lexile measures from the South Dakota State Library at [www.library.sd.gov](http://www.library.sd.gov).

For information about summer reading loss and other reading resources for librarians and parents, visit the South Dakota Department of Education's summer reading website at [www.ReadSD.com](http://www.ReadSD.com).



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For more information on Lexile Measures, visit [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com).

